

Appl. No. 10/677,015
Amdt. dated July 14, 2008
Reply to Office action of April 16, 2008

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans

comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans by solvent extraction to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal; and

b) caustic refining said first extracted soybean oil.

17. (original) The process of claim 16, further including extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein oil is extracted from said soybeans by flaking said soybeans and contacting the soybean flakes with a solvent.

20. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein oil is extracted from said soybean meal with hexane.

21. (previously presented) The process of claim 16, wherein said oil extracted by contacting said soybeans with hexane in a ratio of hexane to available soybean oil of less than 1:1.

22. (previously presented) The process of claim 16, wherein from about 60 to about 85% of the oil in said soybeans is extracted.

23. (previously presented) The process of claim 17, wherein said second extracted soybean oil is transesterified to produce biodiesel.

24. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans by solvent extraction to

produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal;

b) caustic refining said first extracted soybean oil; and

c) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal.

25. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal;

b) physically refining said first extracted soybean oil; and

c) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal.

26. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal, wherein oil is extracted from said soybeans by heating said soybeans to from about 300°F to about 370°F in less than 60 seconds, crushing said soybeans, and mechanically pressing said soybeans; and

b) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal.

27. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans to produce first extracted

soybean oil and oil-containing meal;

b) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal; and

c) producing biodiesel fuel from said second extracted soybean oil by transesterification.

28. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans by solvent extraction to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal by contacting said soybeans with hexane in a ratio of hexane to available soybean oil of less than 1:1; and

b) refining said first extracted soybean oil.

29. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans by solvent extraction to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal;

b) refining said first extracted soybean oil; and

c) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal and transesterifying said second extracted soybean oil.

30. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans by mechanical extraction

to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal; and

b) caustic refining said first extracted soybean oil.